

CRAVEN SMART START NEWS

Craven Smart Start Newsletter

Winter
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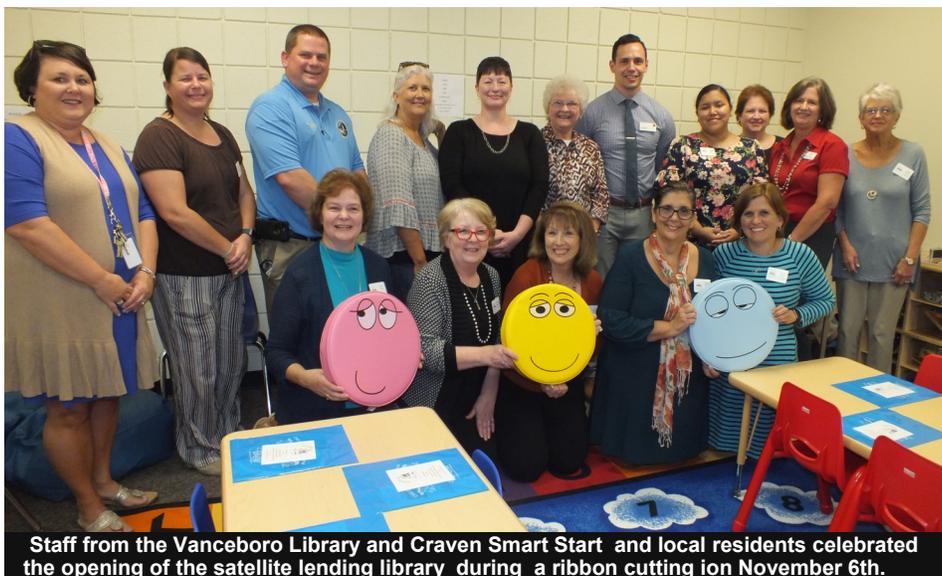
Many Blessings During Recovery

In August, our partnership began its 20th year of operation and while we would rather dwell on this milestone, we cannot, as we have child care facilities that are still recovering from the devastating effects of Hurricane Florence and its impact on families who need and rely on child care to work or to go to school. That's the bad news...Now for the good news. Providers are recovering and we have been blessed during the past three months through donations from the community and elsewhere. So in this issue we will focus on both. We will share Charlotte Neely's story about the Head Start centers in Craven County and their struggles to get up and running. Likewise, we will share our story about the donations that we have received and how we have used them.

But before we get into all of this, we want to shift our focus to our 20th anniversary. The storm may have put a damper on our plans for celebrating the 20th anniversary, but we have still managed to achieve some of our original goals. Our plan to officially announce our 20th anniversary did happen. Thank you, Pat Purnell, for your wonderful Op-Ed in the November 17th issue of the Sun Journal. Our plan to celebrate our latest satellite lending library in the Vanceboro Library took place in a delightful ribbon cutting at the Vanceboro Library on November 6th. And, of course, we all came together in the final quarter to host another successful Holiday Hustle race fundraiser.

We hope to see you in 2019, as our providers recover and as we look back at our 20 years of operation and look forward to the years ahead. Many blessings to each of you.

**Mission of Craven
Smart Start:**
Building Brighter
Futures for Young
Children



Staff from the Vanceboro Library and Craven Smart Start and local residents celebrated the opening of the satellite lending library during a ribbon cutting on November 6th.

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Congrats to Laurie White-Brant, Child Care Licensing Consultant, who retired on 11/30/18. CCR&R recognized Laurie for her service at their collaborative meeting.

Recovery Continues for Head Start Centers

By Charlotte Neely, Coastal Community Action

Three Head Start/Child Development Centers in Craven County, sponsored by Coastal Community Action, Inc., were devastated by Hurricane Florence. The centers were Duffyfield Child Development Center, FR Danyus Child Development Center and Godette Child Development Center. FR Danyus sustained the least amount of damages and re-opened on October 17th for Head Start and Early Head Start services to nearly 150 children. Godette was able to re-open the modular unit October 24th for services to 24 Early Head Start children, and for one classroom of 18 children, who are dually enrolled, in Head Start and NC Pre-K. The main unit for Godette is near completion of all repairs, whereas, the Duffyfield center sustained significant damage and has been closed for services to Head Start children since the hurricane. Approximately, 75 children enrolled at Duffyfield have been receiving services at FR Danyus, at Pamlico Child Development Center in Grantsboro and at Broad Street Christian Church in New Bern. The classroom at Broad Street Christian Church began providing services on October 17th for 4 year-old children who are dually enrolled in Head Start and NC Pre-K.

Coastal Community Action Inc. collaborated with Hatch Early Learning from Winston-Salem, Craven Smart Start and Trinity Chapel AME Zion Church in New Bern from October 29th—November 2nd to distribute donations of clothing and household accessories to assist families impacted by the hurricane. Trinity provided space as a temporary distribution site. Mercy Davis with Hatch Early Learning, contacted numerous businesses, faith-based organizations, and private donors in Winston-Salem about recovery efforts for Craven County. The results were tremendous !! Team members from Hatch transported more than 30 boxes of new and gently worn clothing for children and adults of all sizes, plus new underwear and socks, shoes, coats, dishes, cookware, kitchen accessories bedding blankets, toys, toiletries, lamps and much more. Coupled with these items were additional donations of cleaning supplies, clothing, shoes, diapers and toys donated by ACERA Wealth Management and Craven Smart Start staff. Families and individuals in the Five Points community were able to shop for “free” donations to help with their recovery efforts by visiting Trinity Chapel.

Diaper Donations

We were fortunate to receive several large donations of children’s diapers from the Omega Center in New Bern. CCR&R staff contacted child care providers around the county and delivered diapers to them within a few days.

Later in the month, we received another donation of diapers from the Omega Center. We used this opportunity to reach out to community partners and children’s organizations that could use diapers for their families. “Most organizations were so eager to get the diapers for their parents that were very willing to come to our office to pick them up, giving them an opportunity to see our lending library!” according to Pinkie Moore, Community Outreach Coordinator. We very pleased to provide diapers to 22 organizations in the community. Many, many thanks to Kurtis Stewart and the Omega Center for their generosity and consideration.



Connie Rodgers of Happy Hearts Child Care shows diapers she received.

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The Children's Room in the Vanceboro Library has a new look with materials and furniture provided by Craven Smart Start's Child Care Resource and Referral program

Vanceboro Lending Library Site

For the last five years, Craven Smart Start has worked to expand early literacy in Craven County by establishing satellite lending library sites through collaboration with public libraries around the county. For the past year, Craven Smart Start staff and Vanceboro Public Library staff have worked together to establish a satellite site. Craven Smart Start's Child Care Resource and Referral program provided the library with a child sized table and chairs, a large colorful rug, two large book shelves, one small book shelf, a manipulative shelf with different materials that enhance eye-hand coordination. According to Bonnie Gould, CCR&R Director, "We are very pleased to provide these items so that young children from the community will now have a cozy chair and emotion cushions just their size to sit on while library staff read to them".

On November 6th, Craven Smart Start staff and Vanceboro Library staff held a reception/ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the satellite site. The event was also attended by Chad Braxton, the Mayor of Vanceboro; Renee' Harrell and Mary Nell Morris with the Craven County Family Literacy Program; Gary Burt with Wells-Fargo; Billy Whitford with Whitford Insurance and Vanceboro Library Board Members, Mary Fillingame and Julie Cannon.

This makes the third satellite lending library site in public libraries in Craven County. Craven Smart Start's collaboration with the Havelock Library in 2013 and with the Cove City Library in 2015, with a grant from the Harold H. Bate Foundation, helped to create satellite sites in both libraries.

Another Successful Holiday Hustle

Our 6th Annual Holiday Hustle race fundraiser, held on December 8th, proved to be another great success, as 165 runners braved the cold to take part the event that is the only race in Downtown New Bern in December. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated.

A Big Thank You to all of our sponsors. We especially want to thank our Title Sponsors: B/S/H/ and Bojangles and our Spirit Sponsors: Child Care Network, Cowey Insurance Group, Double-Tree by Hilton, Nutrien, Excel Learning Centers; and Bender Apparel & Signs.

Thanks also to everyone who supported and /or assisted with the Holiday Hustle, which includes our Emcee Shane Hinton, Jaime McCutcheon, and Nate Belt from News Channel 12; members of the New Bern Police Department; our volunteers; Craven Smart Start Board Members; Craven Smart Start staff and their family members.

For more information about the Holiday Hustle, including race results and photos from the event, visit www.cravensmartstart.org and click on Holiday Hustle.

Craven Smart Start is a 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or questions about our services and programs.

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Visit us on the web at
www.cravensmartstart.org

Up-dates about Craven Smart Start with Photos on Page 5

Photos on Top Left: and Right and Photos in Center

- Top Left: Although our early literacy program Raising A Reader (RAR) started off slowly because of the hurricane, it is now back on track. All implementers (child care teachers) have been trained and all participating classes have held their parent kick-off events and are rotating their red bags. Nadia Lowe, RAR Coordinator, says the children are excited about the books they are taking home and sharing with their families. We are excited that Nadia is implementing STEM activities in the four-year-old classrooms through a B/S/H/ grant. Here she shows family child care home provider Paula Cusson “the jello brain” during a training on the development of the brain.
- Top Right: Crystal Johnson, NC Pre-K teacher at Child Care Network # 77, examines a 3-D brain, an item purchased through the B/S/H/ grant during training.
- Center Left: Paula Jones and the children in her family child care home enjoy the dramatic play area on a recent visit to our lending library.
- Center Right: We shared information and met families at the Havelock Chili Festival. Many thanks to our Havelock Library friends for their story time activities.
- Bottom Left: And they’re off...5K racers begin their trek thru Downtown New Bern.
- Bottom Right: Emcee Shane Hinton, News Channel 12 Meteorologist, who also ran in the 5K race, receives his medal from Dr. Sandra Potter, Board President.

